besides the Chamoli earthquake in March, 1998 and the Gujarat cyclone in June 1998. Floods and drought are a regular feature every year in one or the other part of the country.

(c) and (d) Central Water Commission (CWC) in the Ministry of Water Resources is the nodal organisation for flood forecasting and warning and has 159 flood forecasting stations in different parts of the country. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has also set up Flood Meteorological offices (FMOs) at 10 locations to provide meteorological support to the CWC. For cyclones, IMD under the Ministry of Science & Technology is the nodal organisation and has established a full fledged National Cyclone Warning system which includes three area cyclone warning centres at Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai and the three cyclone warning centres at Bhubaneshwar, Vishakapatnam and Ahmedabad. IMD also maintains a Network of coastal radars and surface and upper air observatories along the coast line for observation and surveillance of tropical cyclones. In case of earthquakes, there is no scientific technique available in the world to forecast its occurrence with a reasonable degree of accuracy in regard to space, time and magnitude. However, the IMD has a countrywide network of 50 siesmological observatories.

(e) At the national level, Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry for coordinating central efforts in case of natural (except drought) and man made disasters. The other Central Departments which provide emergency support functions are Ministry of Defence including Armed forces, Health, Rural Development Road Transport and Highways, Railways, Urban Development, Food & Public Distribution, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Power, Communication, Science &Technology etc.There is also an empowered Group of Ministers for Disaster Management and a High Level Committee to consider cases of grant of additional financial assistance to States from the National Calamity Contingency Fund.

Killings of BSF personnel

2266. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress and outcome of the enquiry into the circumstances under which 16 BSF personnel were killed in the village of Boruibari on the Indo-Bangladesh Border recently;

(b) whether the responsibility for the incident has been fixed on any personnel of the BSF; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The circumstances leading to the death of 16 BSF personnel on the Indo-Bangladesh border have been looked into and no member of BSF personnel is considered responsible for the incident.

Autonomy to the Tribes of Plains of Assam

2267. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Sixth Schedule of the constitution to give autonomy to some more tribes of the plains of Assam;

(b) if so, whether all the plains tribal of Assam going to be benefited by it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D SWAMI): (a) to (c)TheTripartite peace talks to find a solution to Bodo issue in Assam, are continuing. These include a proposal of the Assam Government to create an Autonomous Council under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in Bodo dominated areas in a modified form. This will benefit the tribals living only in the proposed BTC area.

CBI cell for Kidnapping

†2268. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has set up a special cell for investigation into the cases of kidnapping of minor girls and boys;

(b) the number of cases registered since the date of its inception and till the end of 2001;

†Original notice of the question was reqeived in Hindi.

.